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SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of Medical Officer Of Health.

Year ending 31st. December 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the year 1945, I beg to present herewith my Annual Report on the Health of the District, also embodied is the Report of your Sanitary Inspector,

Vital Statistics and Social Condition of the Area.

Area (in acres)	93,216
Estimate of Resident Population	7,265
Rateable Value	£20,517
Sum represented by a penny rate	£93,13 8.

The District is composed of 29 Parishes. The North Eastern part of the Area is the most thickly populated, the South East and the West being very scattered and containing large areas of land under the control of the Forestry Commission.

Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate.....	65.....	60.....	125
Illegitimate.....	11.....	6.....	17
Total.....	76.....	66.....	142

The Birth Rate per thousand of estimated population is 19.5.

The Birth Rate per thousand of estimated population for the year ending December 1944 was 18.2.

Still Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate.....	2.....	1.....	3
Illegitimate.....	0.....	0.....	0.
Rate per thousand (Live or Still) Births			0.41

Deaths.

Male	Female	Total
50.....	49.....	99

Death Rate per thousand estimated population 12.2.

[illegible][illegible]

• **Stressors** are the environmental factors that cause stress. They can be physical, chemical, or biological in nature. Examples include noise, pollution, and overcrowding.

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

100

2. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud. (Common reed)

Journal of Management Studies, 19(1), 67-80.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000.
Puerperal Sepsis	nil	nil
Other Puerperal causes	"	"

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	0	1	1
Total	1	4	5

Death Rate of All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	35.2
Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Births	28.1
Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Births	58.8

Deaths from Cancer, All Ages.

Male	Female	Total
6	10	16

Deaths from Measles, All Ages.

Male	Female	Total
0	0	0

Deaths from Whooping Cough, All Ages.

Male	Female	Total
1	0	1

Deaths from Diphtheria, All Ages.

Male	Female	Total
1	0	1

Deaths from Influenza, All Ages.

Male	Female	Total
0	0	0

Deaths from Road Accidents.

Male	Female	Total
2	1	3

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2yrs of Age.)

Male	Female	Total
0	0	0

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths.
Infective Jaundice.	35	0	0
Whooping Cough.	39	0	0
Scarlet Fever.	9	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	1	0
Pneumonia.	5	0	0
Measles.	81	0	0
Erysipelas.	2	0	0
Diphtheria.	3	3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1	0

Infective Jaundice.

An epidemic of this disease occurred, chiefly in three villages, there were 9 cases in Necton, 10 cases in Saham and 6 cases in Gooderstone. The rest of the cases occurred sporadically over the area.

Whooping Cough.

An epidemic of this disease occurred in February, March and April, starting in the village of Ashill, where 11 cases were notified, spreading to South Pickenham where 4 cases were notified and accompanied by a separate infection in the area of Southacre, where 6 cases were notified, which spread to Narford 5 cases notified, Newton, 2 cases notified, and 5 cases notified from Narborough. There were a few other scattered cases.

Diphtheria.

From Hilborough, 3 cases of this disease were notified. Swabs were taken of all contacts. No carriers were found, and although the drainage system of the Hilborough Rectory came under suspicion nothing definite was proved as to the source of the infection.

The only other major epidemic was due to Measles, which visited the District twice during the year, from January to April and again in December. The two villages chiefly affected were Sporle with 29 cases notified and Ashill with 19 cases notified. In the latter part of the year Hilborough and Mundford bore the brunt of the epidemic with 7 and 6 cases respectively, but most villages had some cases.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year were 54, and the number of new cases notified during the year were 8. The number of cases on the Register at the end of the year 1944 were 49, there were also 49 on the Register at the end of the year 1943. Thus there were 5 cases more on the Register at the end of the year 1945 than the previous 2 years. During the year 5 patients removed from the District.

Analysis of new cases and Mortality during the year.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		DEATHS Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
50	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
80	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 112 children under 5 years of age were immunised against Diphtheria, and 20 children between the ages of 5 and 15. This brings the total numbers of children immunised in the District up to; under 5yrs. - 636 and over 5 yrs. 1136. This figure represents about 65% of the children under 1 year immunised, and 95% of the children of school age.

Diphtheria Immunisation cont.

Parents are tending more and more to bring their infants to be immunised, and the District Nurses are doing valuable work in promoting this very necessary safeguard against child mortality.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There are two Public Health Officers in the Area, the Medical Officer of Health, and the Sanitary Inspector, the latter working under the general supervision of the former. A close liaison is at all times maintained between the two officers.

Hospitals.

Patients requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Cottage Hospital, Swaffham, The Cottage Hospital Watton, The West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital, The Norfolk and Norwich General Hospital and The Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.

The Norfolk County Council Isolation Hospital, at East Dereham, admits cases of Infectious Disease where isolation in the home is impossible, or where it is desired that the patient be sent to an isolation hospital. Cases of Whooping Cough and Measles are as a general rule nursed in the home, the more serious illnesses such as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Puerperal Fever being those which are usually sent to the Isolation Hospital.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply:

The chief sources of supply of water are from wells, many of which are shallow and the water from them is often not fit for domestic use. Samples taken from such wells after heavy rains indicate recent contamination.

There are no public water mains, but on two of the Council's Housing Sites there is a piped water supply, the source in these cases being from boreholes.

In some cases isolated cottages have a standpipe supply taken from a nearby bore.

During the Summer of 1945 there was no serious water shortage. In this connection it is worthy of note that during the previous Summer a serious shortage was encountered in many districts.

During the year, a comprehensive Mains Water Scheme was prepared, covering the whole of the District, by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

Drainage and Sewerage:

For most of the houses in the area, of the working class type, a proper drainage system does not exist. In a large majority of cases domestic waste water is disposed of by dispersal over the kitchen garden, or, in the cases where a sink is provided in the house, the waste water discharges via a short drain into the nearby ditch.

Drainage and Sewerage cont.:

A general scheme for the disposal of sewage had not been prepared for the area at the end of the year.

Closet Accommodation:

The number of houses in the area having the use of Water Closets is very small, and owing to the non existence of a mains sewerage, conversions from conservancy systems to water carriage systems during the year were nil. Most houses in the district make use of the Pail Closet, although there does still exist some of the type of conservancy system often referred to as the "privy" type. Whenever opportunity arises, arrangements are made for the conversion from this type of closet to the Pail Closet.

Public Cleansing:

Periodical Refuse Collections have been in operation in 9 Parishes, this meaning that a further 3 Parishes have adopted a Refuse Collection. Although, owing to the very scattered nature of the district public cleansing organisation is most difficult, no opportunity has been lost to maintain and wherever possible augment existing arrangements for collection and disposal of refuse.

This Authority does not possess a Mechanical Cesspool Emptier, but when the use of one is needed the services of a Mechanical Cleansing Company are enlisted.

Shops:

General inspections of Shops throughout the area are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, but most of the shops are of the small type, usually in the front room of a private house, and are controlled entirely by members of the family living in the house. Strictest enforcement of the provisions of the Shops Act is therefore not easy.

Smoke Abatement:

In no part of the district has any action in relation to Smoke Abatement been necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools:

There are no Swimming Baths or Bathing Pools open to the public in any part of the district.

Bed Bugs:

No cases of bug infestation were reported during the year.

Other Vermin:

With the exception of rat infestation, only a very small number of cases of infestation are reported in the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

81. Complaints investigated during the year numbered
52. Inspections made under the Public Health Act were
- Inspections made under the Housing Acts during the year were confined mainly to the carrying out of the Rural Housing Survey. The number of Parishes surveyed was 16 which gave a total number of 1225 houses surveyed. These houses were placed into categories and formed useful information in connection with the Council's allocation of new houses to the Parishes.
- The number of Statutory Notices served during the year under the Public Health Act was 7.
- The number of preliminary notices and informal notices issued during the year was 57.

Housing.

Many essential repairs to houses have had to be curtailed owing to the shortage of Building Materials and the labour shortage. Generally speaking the Housing of the district was found during the year, to be greatly in need of repair and reconstruction.

The Sanitary Inspector proceeded with the Rural Housing Survey in the Area on the findings of which the following analysis of housing conditions is based.

Number of Parishes Surveyed.	Houses found Satisfactory.	Needing Minor Repair.	Suitable for Imp- rovement.	For re- constru- ction.	For Demol- ition.
16	345	141	105	335	299

The Survey continues, only the most essential repairs being required of owners, owing to the present Building Situation.

There is a great deal of overcrowding in the district and consequently a most urgent need for the new houses which the Council is endeavouring to build.

and

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply:

There were 113 milk producers on the Register at the end of the year, 14 of these were Accredited Producers and 5 were producers of T.T. milk.

Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies were carried out through the year by the Sanitary Inspector and 85 such inspections were made.

Milk Samples were taken from the Accredited herds for subjection to the Methylene Test, the total number of such samples taken being 32.

Milk Samples for biological examination were taken from all producers excepting T.T. producers who are administered by the County Council. The total number of samples taken for biological examination was 93.

Meat and Food Inspection.

No slaughtering of animals for food was carried out in the area, meat for human consumption having been supplied through central slaughterhouses situate without the area.

During the year 15 visits were made to the villages to carry out examination of consignments of suspected foods in the village shops.

No action was taken under the Food and Drugs Act 1938 during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.S. HALL & SMITH.

Medical Officer Of Health.

